

COUNTRY [REDACTED]

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Koermend and Szombathely

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JUL
191

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT late March 1951

DATE OBTAINED 25X1C DATE PREPARED 5 June 1951

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Koermend.

1. Prior to 23 March 1951, the Batthyani Castle in Koermend (P 48/C 76) quartered about 300 Soviet Troops who belonged to a tank unit and to a motorized unit. The officers of the unit, estimated at 30 to 40, were billeted in the former district court building opposite the castle. Twenty-five canvas-covered tanks, including tanks No 541, and 570 were seen in the castle garden. The tanks mounted guns about 3½ meters long, apparently without muzzle brakes. Troops practicing with machine guns and mortars were usually seen in the castle area. Target practice with pistols, submachine guns, rifles, and machine guns was observed at the target range near the castle. *
2. The Soviet troops observed in Koermend wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. The troops had not yet left for the Hajmasker (P 48/D 79) troop training grounds by the end of March. **
3. Soviet ammunition was stored in an old grain storage installation near a cemetery on the north side of the road leading to Mótnaszecsed (P 48/C 76). The installation was under military guard.

Szombathely.

4. Soviet vehicles observed at the Gendarmerie Barracks and at the former Sabaria Hotel in Szombathely (P 48/C 78) during the second half of March were [REDACTED]

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5. The tanks and motor vehicles previously parked at the field near the Haladas sports ground left, apparently before 17 March. An [REDACTED] said that they moved to Hajmasker. All Soviet troops seen in Szombathely wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Some officers seen at the Gendarmerie Barracks wore red-bordered green epaulets. ***

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* [REDACTED] Comment. Tanks in the castle garden were also reported by refugees in November 1950 and January 1951. In mid-February 1951, source of the present report saw numerous tracks of the 17th Gds Mecz Div on blocks in or near the castle garden. See [REDACTED]

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment. During the past years, the Hajmasker troop training grounds was used for summer training by all component units of the 17th Gds Mecz Div.

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25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment. Apart from the [REDACTED] belonging to an unidentified Soviet agency in the Vienna area, all [REDACTED] reported are assigned to the 17th Gds Mecz Div. The barracks installations in Szombathely are an old Gendarmerie Barracks on Deak Ferenc street and a new Gendarmerie Barracks on Fraduly Ferenc. Since many officers were previously observed at the Sabaria Hotel, a unit headquarters is believed to be located there. See [REDACTED].

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